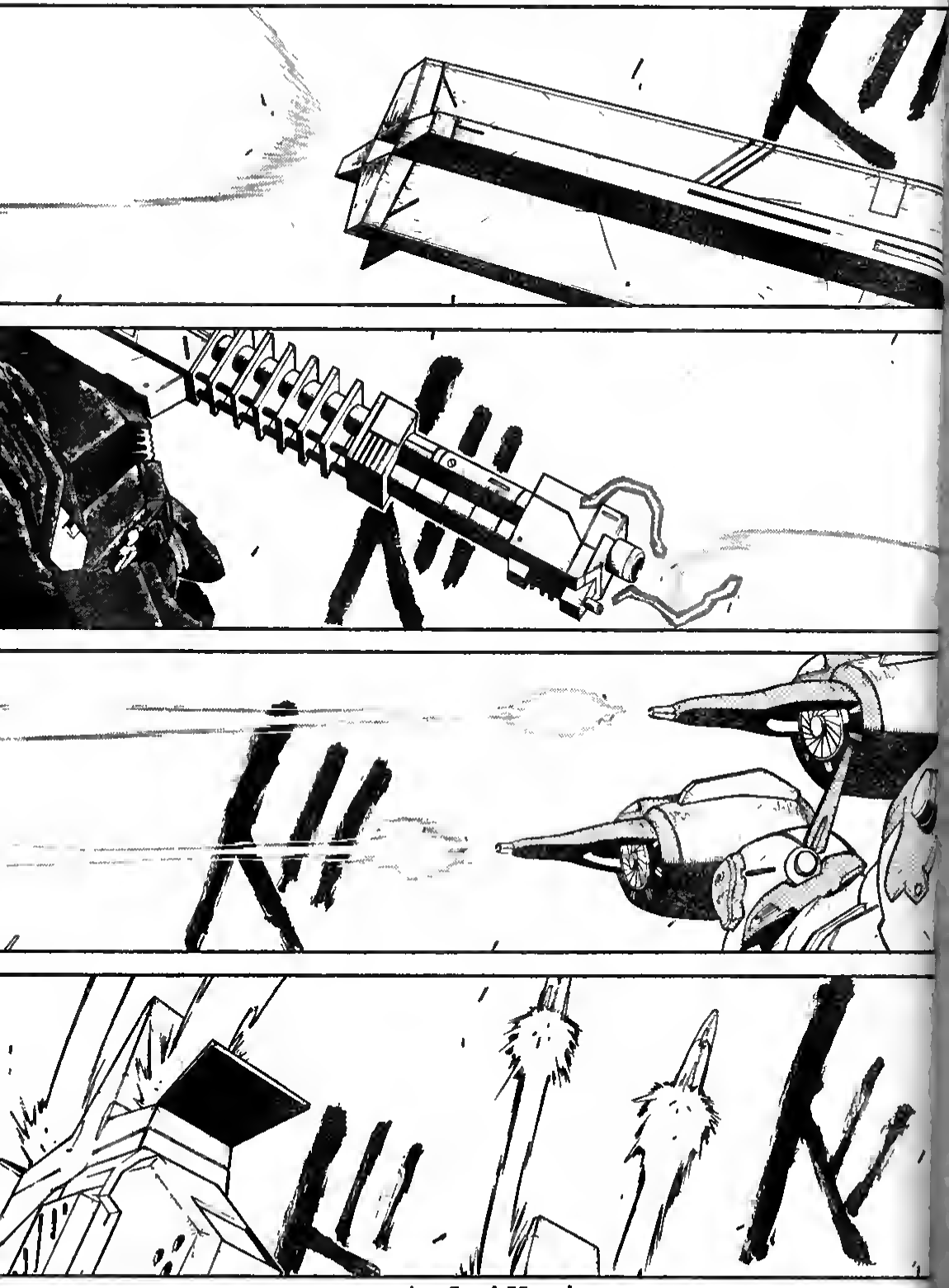
ARMORED CORE
-TOWER CITY BLADE-



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ARMORED CORE

TOWER CITY BLADE

最終話「TOWER CITY BLADE」

作画：氷樹一世

監修協力：(株)フロム・ソフトウェア

後藤広幸

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前回までのあらすじ

地域紛争が激化の一途をたどる時代――最強の巨大人型兵器として「アーマード・コア（AC）」が存在した。ACパイロット（レイヴン）の橋花は、父が作った独立組織に入隊するも、アリーナ（AC同士の闘いの場）で先輩レイヴンたちを倒しトップをとるべく闘い続ける。

Ares O (Uranus)

アレス・オー

HedCR-YH70S2
CorCR-C89E
ArmYA10-LORIS
LegCR-LH96FA
BooBO1-BERDE
FcsCR-FS202
GenGO2-MAGNOLIA
RadR03-LINDEN
IntNONE
ExtTXO-KAILS
BrnWB18-CENTAUR
BkWB19-CENTAUR
ArmCR-WB81G
AtkCR-WL95G
HedNONE
HedNONE

A support setup with an emphasis on having high AP. Sports high-firepower weaponry such as vertical-launch missiles. As it uses an extension not catalogued in the Raven's Ark parts list, it is impossible to calculate the combined strength of the team

Athena O (Uranus)

アテナ・オー

HedHT1-QUEEN
CorC03-HELIOS
ArmAT1-MACAQUE
LegLH06-JAGUAR
BooCR-B81
FcsMP03-VOLUTE2
GenCR-G91
RadR01-HAZEL
IntNONE
ExtJREN
BrnWB15L-GERYON2
BkNONE
ArmWR05L-SHADE
AtkWL-MOONLIGHT
HedNONE
HedNONE

A lightweight build revolving around high-mobility aerial combat. As its main weapons are all energy-based, extension energy cells are a must. There might be something special with the way it's partnered with the Ares O...

THE ARENA FINALS! WHO WILL BE THE WINNER!? イヴェール!!

Vulcansaber

ヴァルカンセイバー

HedCR-H97XS-EYE
CorRAKAN
ArmCR-A94RL
LegCR-LH99XS
BooBO5-GULL
FcsMEROKU
GenCR-G91
RadCR-R92
IntNONE
ExtNONE
BrnNONE
BkWB05M-SATYROS
ArmWH04L-KR5W
AtkCR-WL88LB3
HedNONE
HedNONE

In this arena battle, her resolve to live life as a mercenary has strengthened her mind. She no longer doubts her abilities as a Raven and has put avenging her father to the side. Reichenberg even gave her a few tips on high-mobility combat.

Amber Maiden VU

アンバーメイデン・ヴィーユーニット

HedH09-SPIDER
CorC05-SELENA
ArmA04-BABOON
LegLH13-JACKAL2
BooCR-B81
FcsMP04-COWRY
GenCR-G84P
RadR03-LINDEN
IntNONE
ExtNONE
BrnWB30G-CHIMERA
BkWB30G-CHIMERA
ArmCR-WR76B
AtkCR-WL95B
HedNONE
HedNONE

The shoulder weapons have been exchanged for a quadruple laser cannon. Specialising as a support for the tag match, the FCS has also been changed to a wide angle type. She also received some advice from Reichenberg on tuning her machine, and is fully confident that they will win.

...THAT'S CRAZY
THEY REALLY DO EXIST...!
GUH!
PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN TO FIGHT
A PLUS!

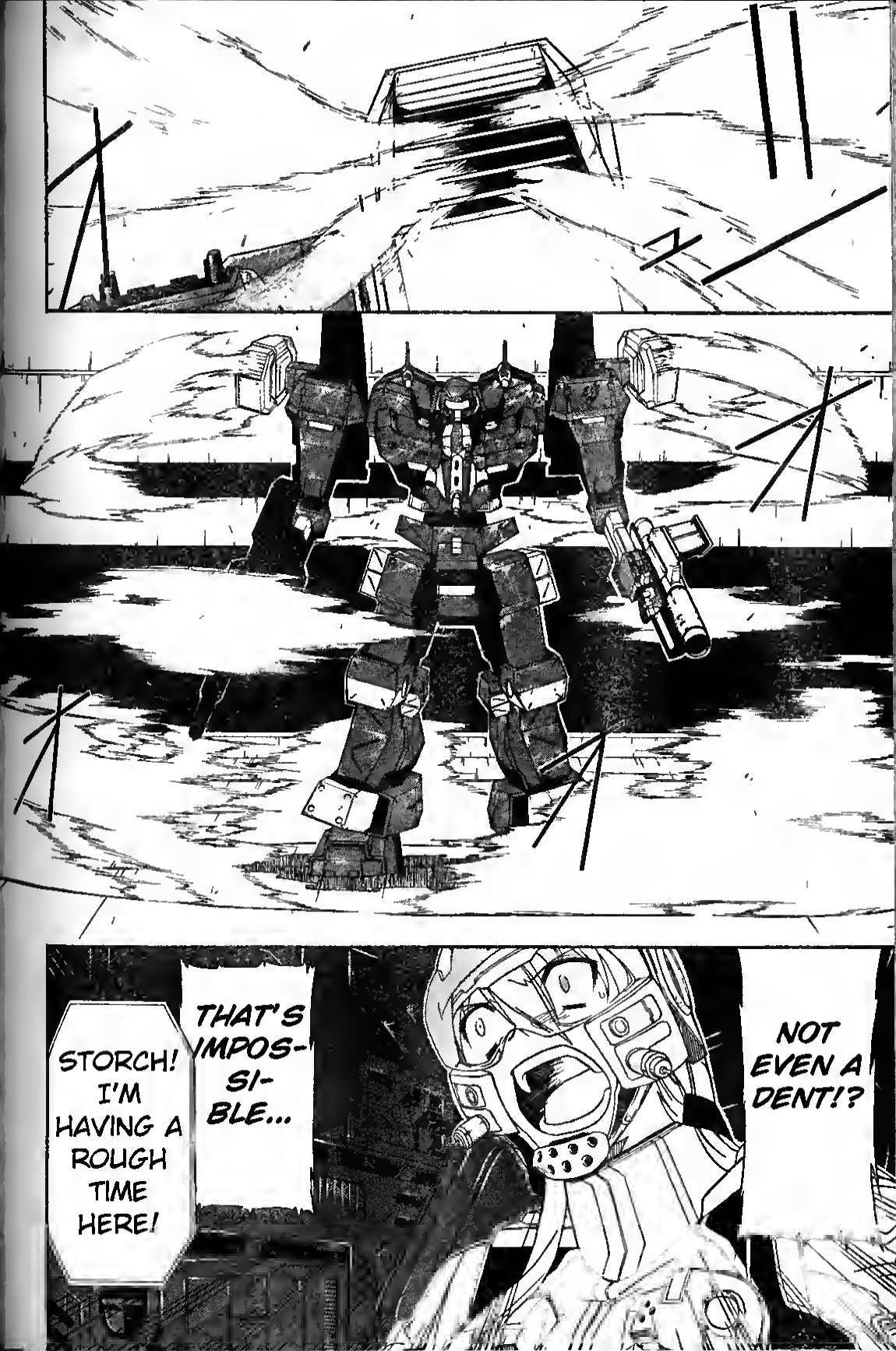
IF THE RUMOURS ARE CORRECT, THAT RAVEN'S BAD NEWS!
INFORMATION PROCESSING
STAMINA
COMBAT ADAPTABILITY
EVERYTHING BETTER THAN THE REGULAR RAVEN!
5
WE CAN'T EVEN COMPARE
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME
KIKKA!
YOU HAVE TO PIN THAT ONE DOWN!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT TAKING IT OUT

HER HEAVY BIPED PART-NER...
WHILE SHE'S BUSY WITH YOU
IS MINE!!

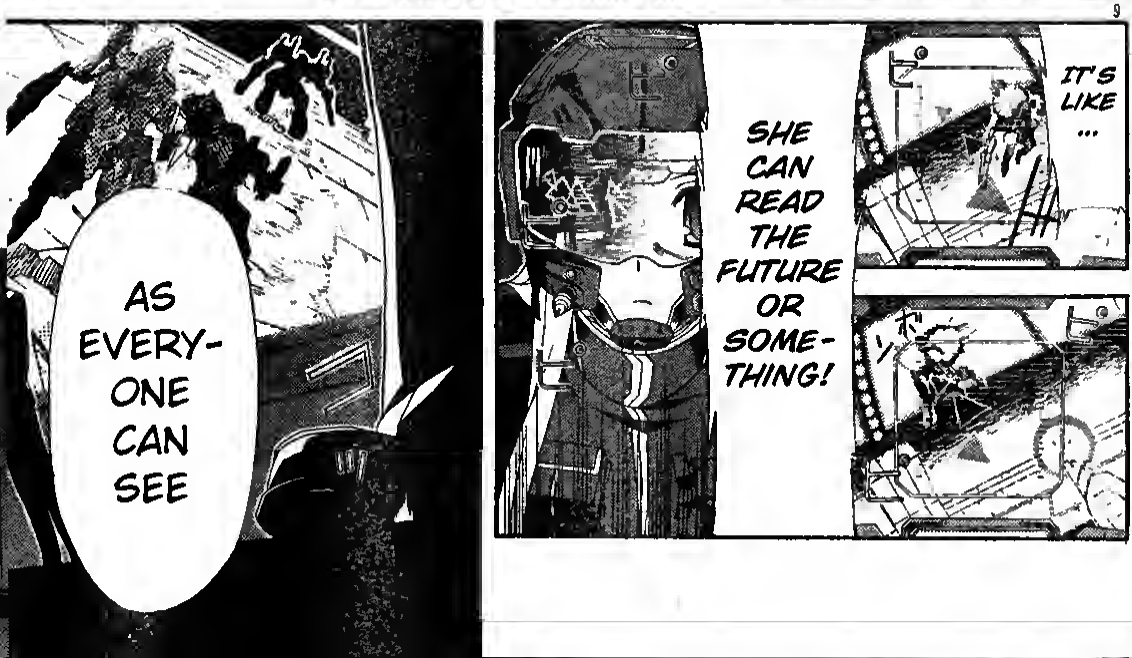
6

BEGIN THE EX-PERI-MENT
TO THE RAVENS OF ARES O, ATHENA O
SHE FIRED ALL OF THE ENERGY WEAP-ONS

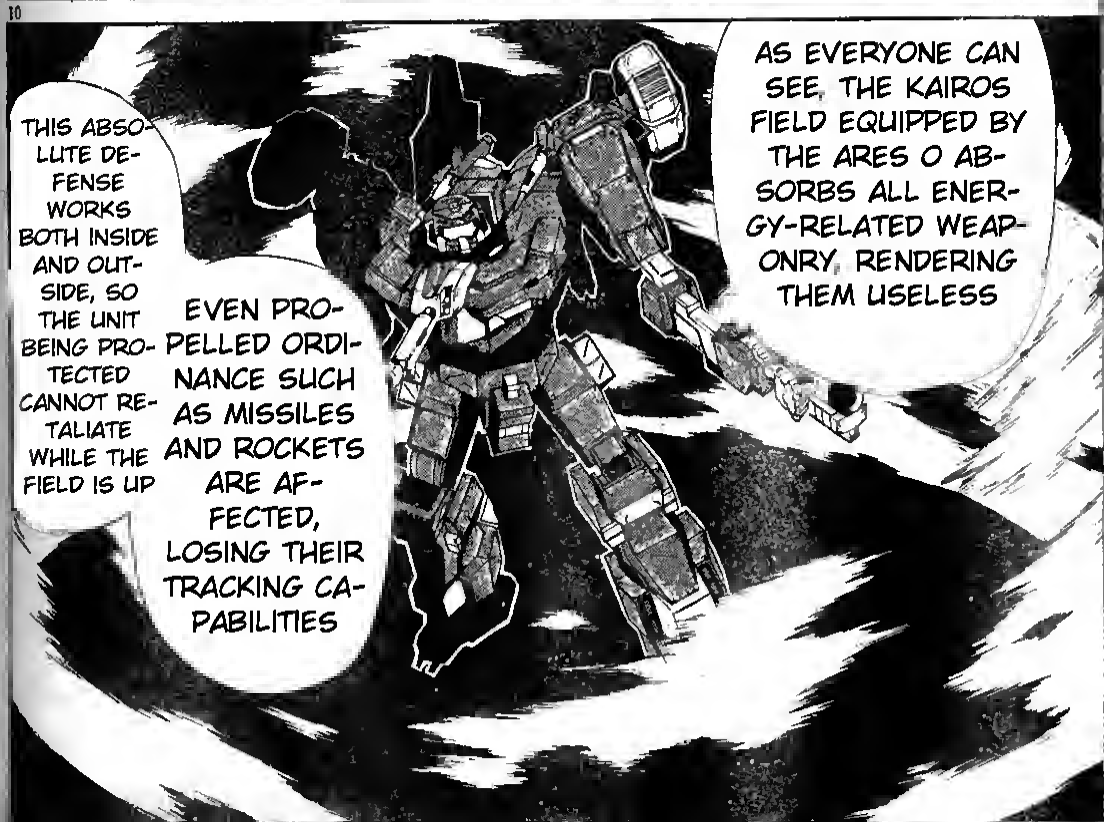
ARES O "KAIROS FIELD"
ATHENA O "SUPER PRO-CES-SOR"
ACTI-VATE
NOTHING MISSED!
EVEN A HEAVY-WEIGHT CAN'T STAND A DIRECT HIT LIKE...

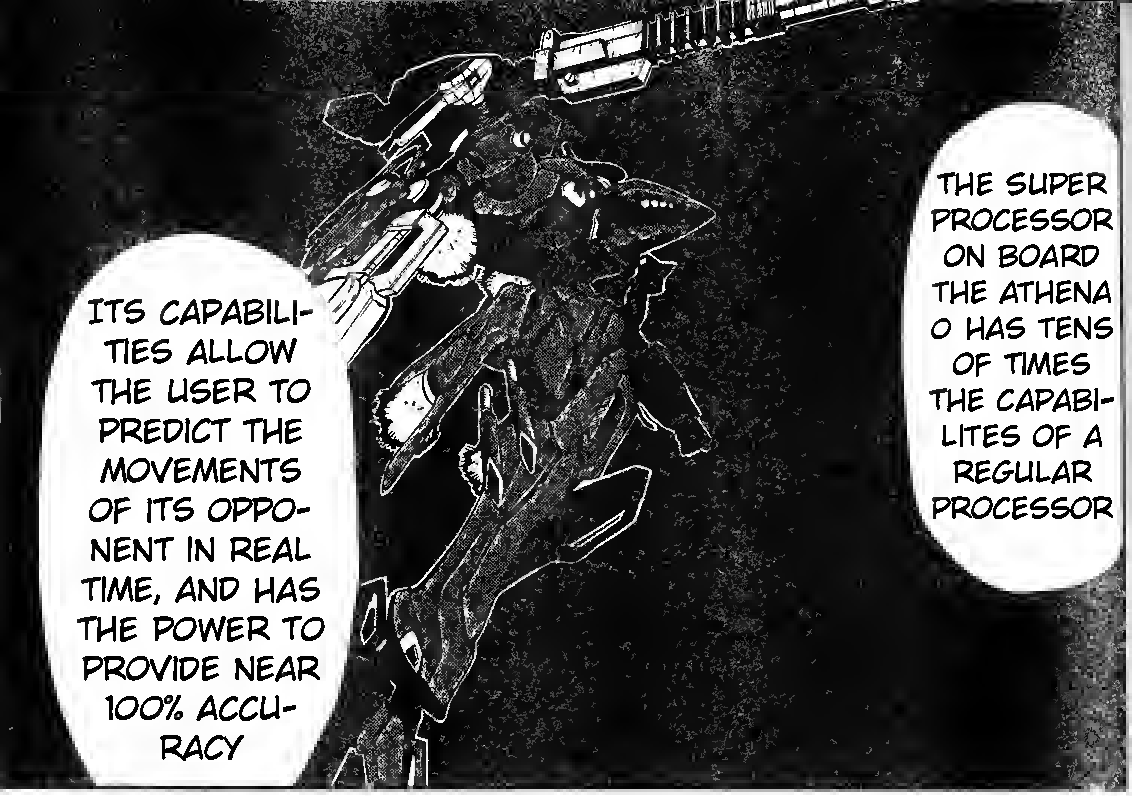

STORCH! I'M HAVING A ROUGH TIME HERE!
THAT'S IMPOS-SI-BLE...
NOT EVEN A DENT!?

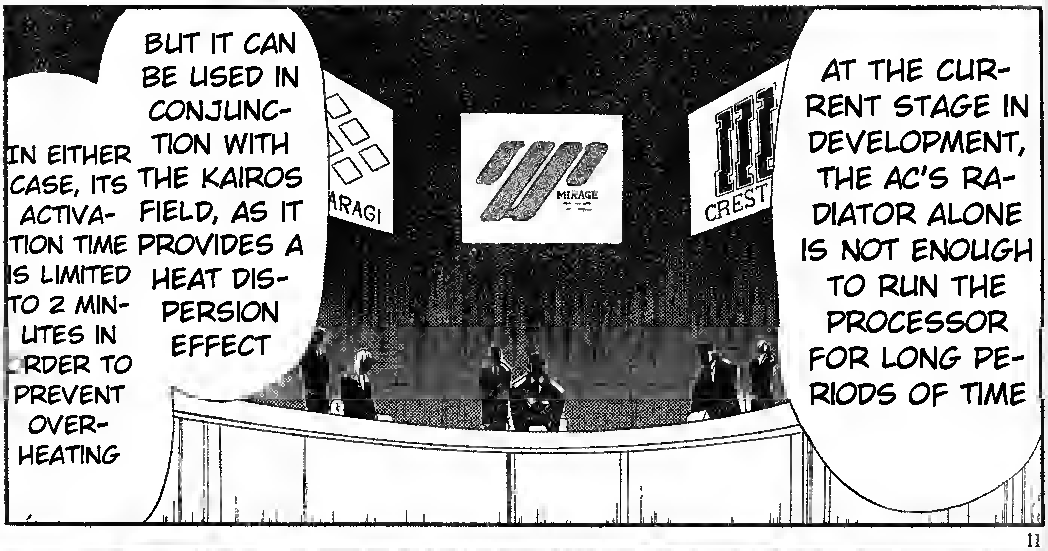
I EVEN HAD TO USE MY OB TO GET OUT OF THE WAY...
SHE SUD-DENLY FLEW STRAIG HT UP AND COUN-TERED BEFOR E I EVEN MADE MY MOVE!
JUST WHEN I WAS GOING TO PRES-SURE IT INTO THE HEAVY-WEIGHT'S BACK
THAT LIGHT-WEIGHT

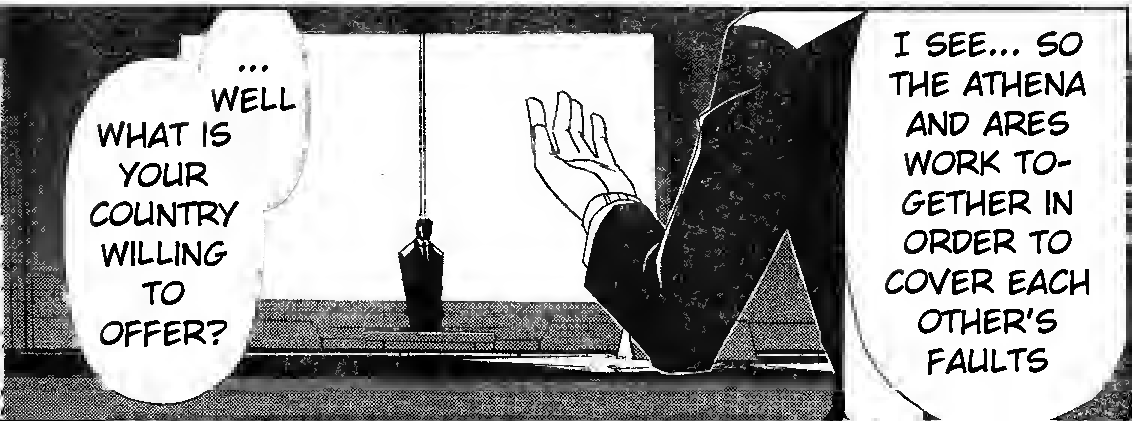

AS EVERY-ONE CAN SEE
SHE CAN READ THE FUTURE OR SOME-THING!
IT'S LIKE ...

THIS IS OUR COMPANY'S NEXT-GENERATION COMBAT SYSTEM
THE KAIROS FIELD GENERATOR EXTENSION PART "TOX-KAILS"
AND THE HEAD-EQUIPPED MOTHERBOARD "SUPER PROCESSOR"
THE IDEA WAS TO MINIATURISE SOME OF THE TOWER'S FUNCTIONS FOR AC USE
AND EVENTUALLY FOR ALL CIVILIAN CRAFTS


AS EVERYONE CAN SEE, THE KAIROS FIELD EQUIPPED BY THE ARES O ABSORBS ALL ENERGY-RELATED WEAPONRY, RENDERING THEM USELESS
EVEN PROPELLED ORDINANCE SUCH AS MISSILES AND ROCKETS ARE AFFECTED, LOSING THEIR TRACKING CAPABILITIES
THIS ABSOLUTE DEFENSE WORKS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, SO THE UNIT BEING PROTECTED CANNOT RETALIATE WHILE THE FIELD IS UP

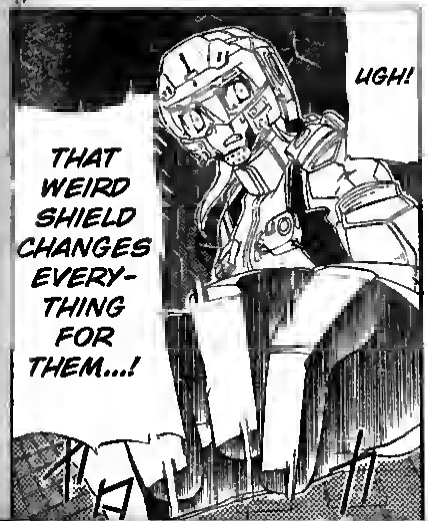

THE SUPER PROCESSOR ON BOARD THE ATHENA O HAS TENS OF TIMES THE CAPABILITES OF A REGULAR PROCESSOR
ITS CAPABILITIES ALLOW THE USER TO PREDICT THE MOVEMENTS OF ITS OPPONENT IN REAL TIME, AND HAS THE POWER TO PROVIDE NEAR 100% ACCURACY


AT THE CURRENT STAGE IN DEVELOPMENT, THE AC'S RADIATOR ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO RUN THE PROCESSOR FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME
BUT IT CAN BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE KAIROS FIELD, AS IT PROVIDES A HEAT DISPERSION EFFECT
IN EITHER CASE, ITS ACTIVATION TIME IS LIMITED TO 2 MINUTES IN ORDER TO PREVENT OVERHEATING
MIRAGE
CREST


I SEE... SO THE ATHENA AND ARES WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO COVER EACH OTHER'S FAULTS
... WELL WHAT IS YOUR COUNTRY WILLING TO OFFER?

THAT AC'S A MONSTER
ROC
WHAT'S THE RAVEN'S OPINION
ON TEKISTAN'S OPENING BATTLE...
THERE'S ENOUGH GOING AROUND TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT THE NUMBER OF SOURCES ARE TOO FEW TO BE SURE
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MY OPINION
...
WHAT WE ARE WANT IS THE TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER THE STRENGTH OF THE TXO-KAILS AND THE MONEY TO FURTHER OUR RESEARCH
IN RETURN WE WILL ENSURE THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THIS DEVICE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER...

MY INFO'S GOOD ROC
I HEARD IT FROM A FORMER SUBORDINATE WHO WORKS AT THE TOWER NOW
THAT THEY'VE BEEN BEEFING UP THEIR SECURITY LATELY
IT COULD BE RELATED TO THE FELTORICA ARMY INVASION A WHILE BACK
...I SEE... I GET IT NOW
THIS IS ALL JUST A DISTRACTION FROM FELTORICAN ARMY'S NEXT OPERATION... 次期侵攻作戦を……
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT WE'VE BEEN USED AS PAWNS IN THIS POLITICAL WAR
FUCK THAT SHIT
DON'T DIE OUT THERE KID...!
AHHH!
TCH
AP under 50%


UGH!
THAT WEIRD SHIELD CHANGES EVERY-THING FOR THEM...!

THAT THING ON ITS SHOULDERS MAKES ENERGY AND BALLISTIC WEAPONS COMPLETELY USELESS
SO WHY DIDN'T THEY TURN IT ON AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIGHT AND FINISHED IT EARLY?
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT AN OUTSIDE CONTROLLER ACTIVATES IT INSTEAD OF THE RAVEN
IF THAT'S TRUE, GIVEN THAT PART'S SIZE AND HOW MUCH STUFF IT'S PUT OUT ALREADY, IT SHOULDN'T LAST MORE THAN ANOTHER 35 SECONDS!
KIKKA! IT'S A STRETCH BUT I HAVE AN IDEA...
WHY!?

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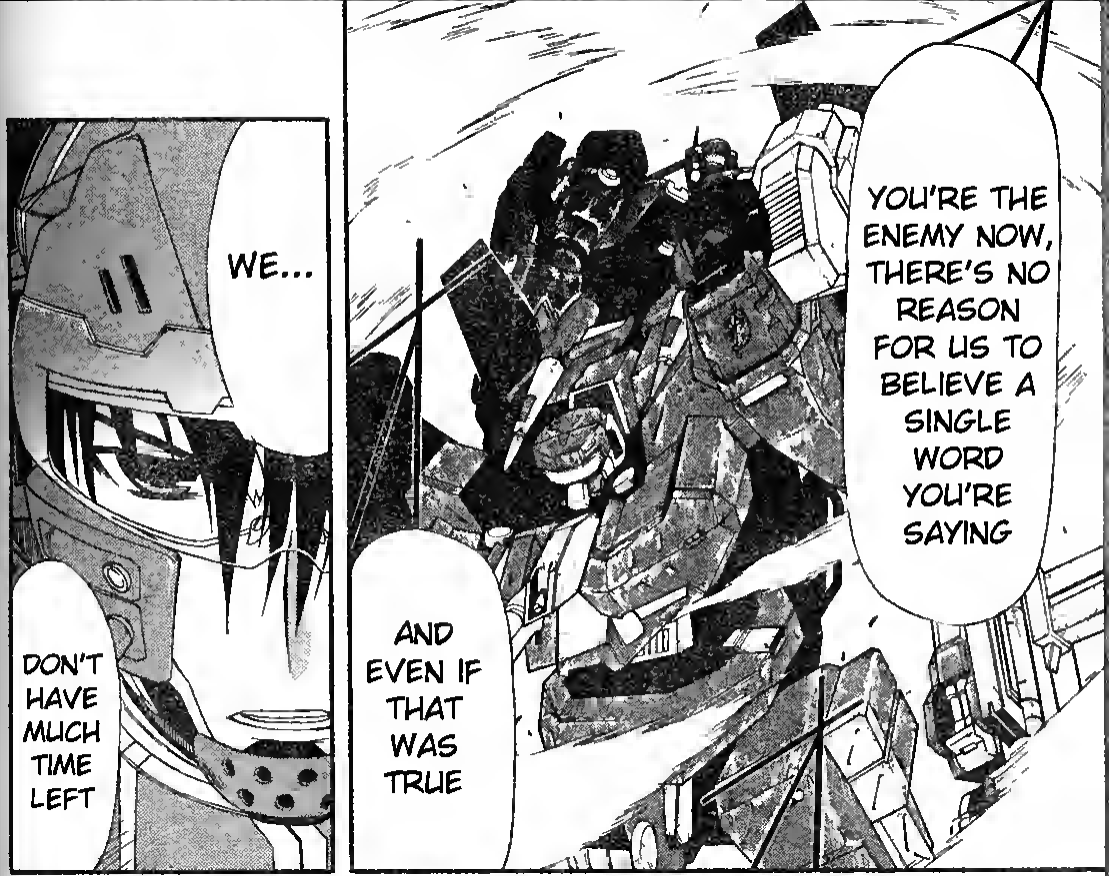
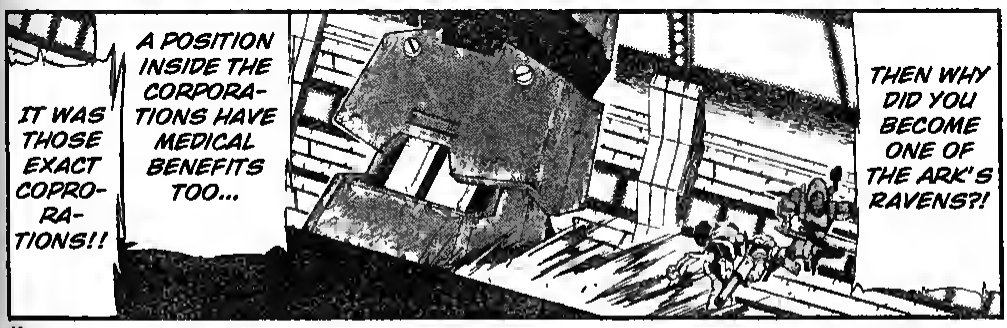
WHY WON'T YOU GUYS LISTEN TO ME!?
EVEN IF YOU WIN, CATARINA WON'T RETURN TO NORMAL!
THEY'VE BEEN LYING TO YOU THE WHOLE TIME!

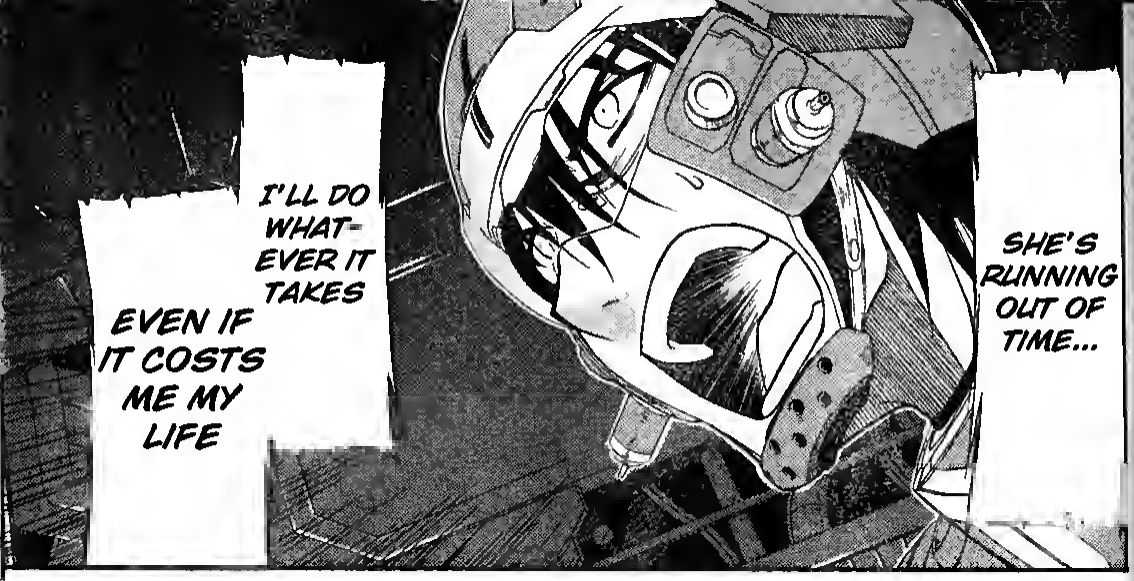

YOU'RE THE ENEMY NOW, THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD YOU'RE SAYING
AND EVEN IF THAT WAS TRUE
WE...
DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT

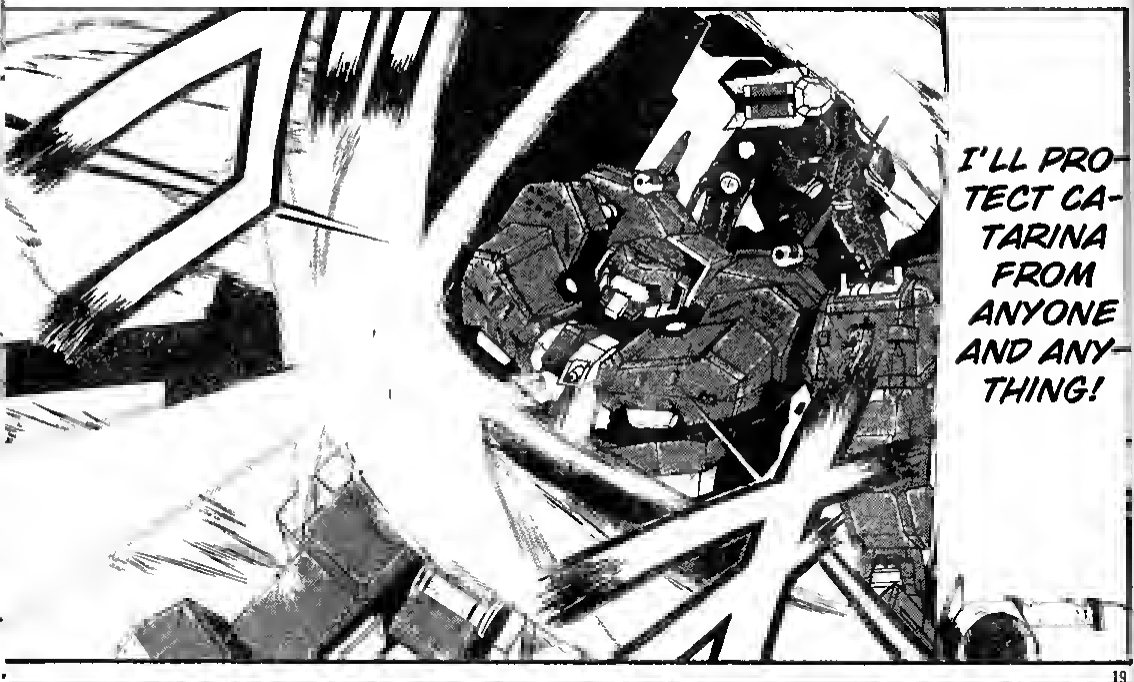

THEN WHY DID YOU BECOME ONE OF THE ARK'S RAVENS?!
A POSITION INSIDE THE CORPORATIONS HAVE MEDICAL BENEFITS TOO...
IT WAS THOSE EXACT COPRORATIONS!!

WHO TURNED HER INTO WHAT SHE IS TODAY
NOTHING COULD HAVE INSULTED US FURTHER...!

EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE, WE WERE PART OF A SMALL COMMUNITY OF CHILD SOLDIERS
THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE WAS TO FIGHT
IT WAS WHEN ONE OF THE COMPANIES BOUGHT OUT OUR LITTLE COMMUNITY
AND WE WERE ENLISTED INTO ONE OF THEIR SQUADS... BUT
FROM THERE OUR LUCK HAD TURNED FOR THE WORST
CATARINA HAD AN APTITUDE FOR BATTLE FROM THE BEGINNING
SO THE SCIENTISTS HAD THEIR EYES SET AND TOOK HER AWAY
IT WOULD BE 8 YEARS
8 LONG YEARS UNTIL I WOULD SEE HER AGAIN
BUT WHEN I DID

I TOOK HER TO A DOCTOR AND THEY SAID THAT HER MUSCLES WERE BEGINNING TO STIFFEN WITH TIME, HER HEART WOULD STOP FUNCTIONING
BUT THE OPERATION TO TREAT IT WOULD COST AN EXORBITANT AMOUNT OF MONEY. SOMETHING I COULD NEVER PAY FOR
-WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL IT WITH MEDICATION
BUT WITH TIME, EVEN THOSE WILL STOP WORKING
HER BODY DIDN'T SHOW A SINGLE HINT OF AGING FROM WHEN I LAST SAW HER
ALL EXPRESSION WAS WIPED FROM HER FACE AND SHE COULD BARELY EVEN SPEAK

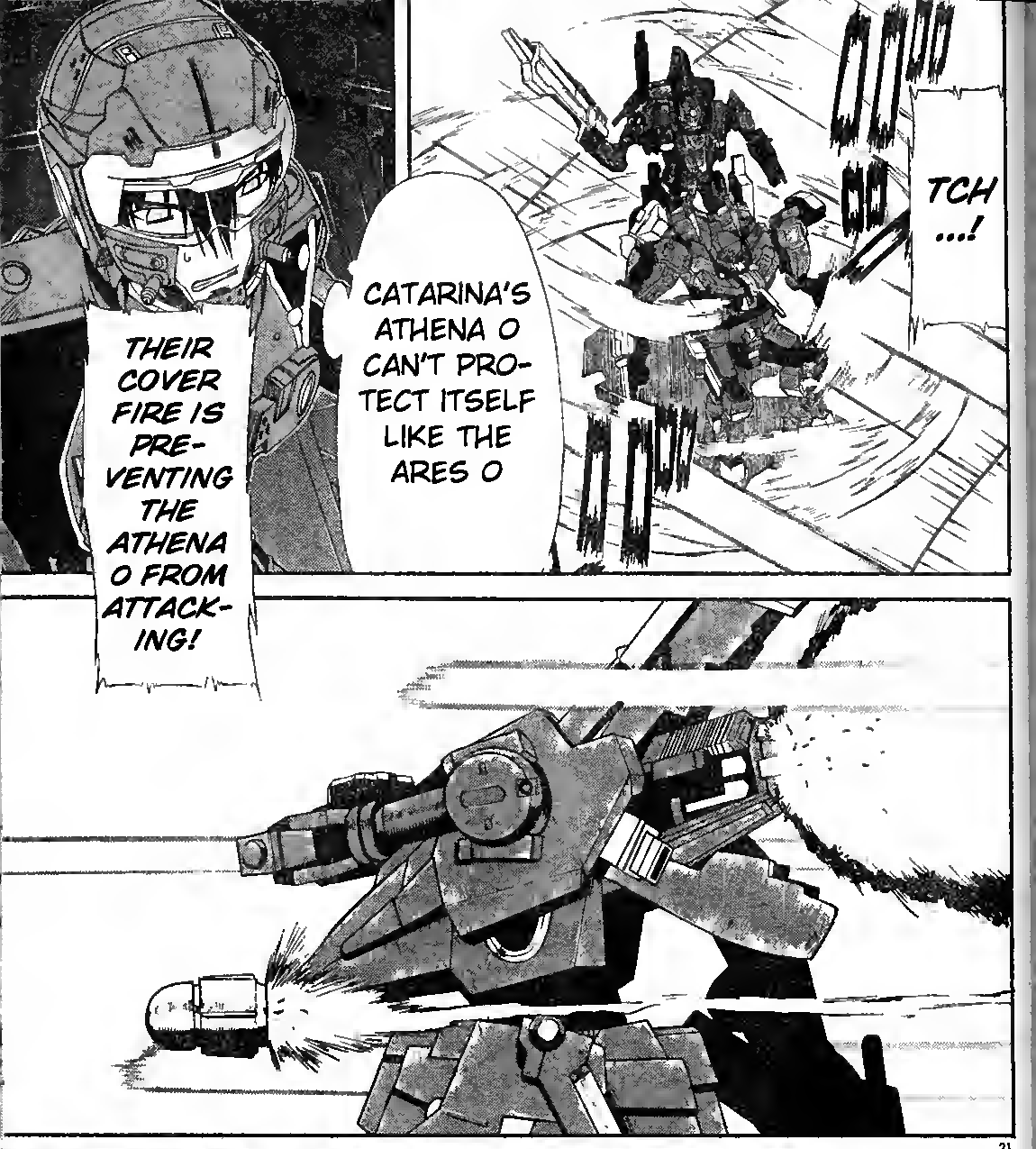

SHE'S RUNNING OUT OF TIME...
I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES
EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE

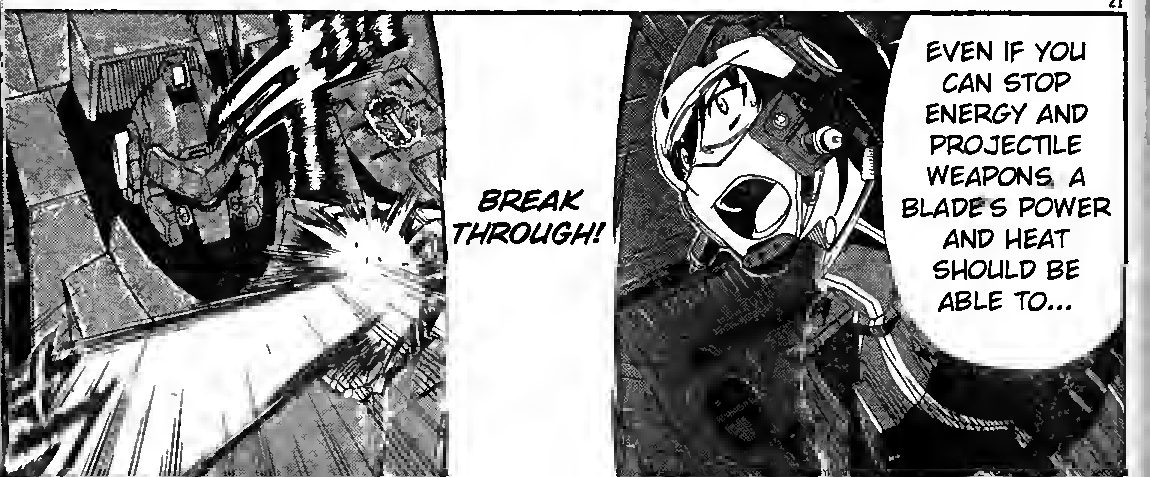

I'LL PRO-TECT CA-TARINA FROM ANYONE AND ANY-THING!

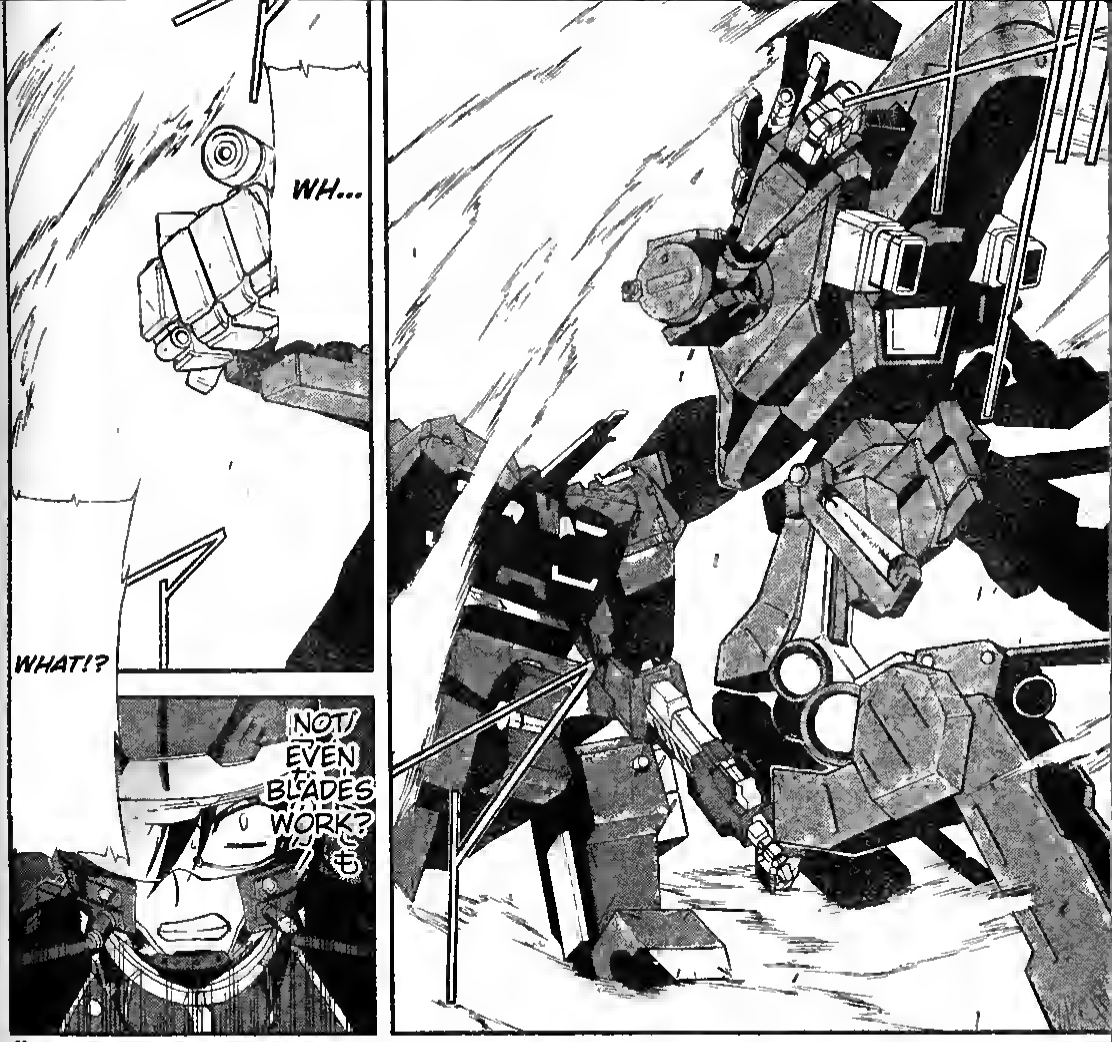
19

I UN-DER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL
BUT WE DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTH-ING!

I DON'T PLAN ON BACKING OUT NOW!
STORCH, BACK ME UP!
BUT I DIDN'T EVEN EX-PLAIN MY PLAN YET...
YOU GOT IT!


TCH ...!
CATARINA'S ATHENA O CAN'T PROTECT ITSELF LIKE THE ARES O
THEIR COVER FIRE IS PREVENTING THE ATHENA O FROM ATTACKING!

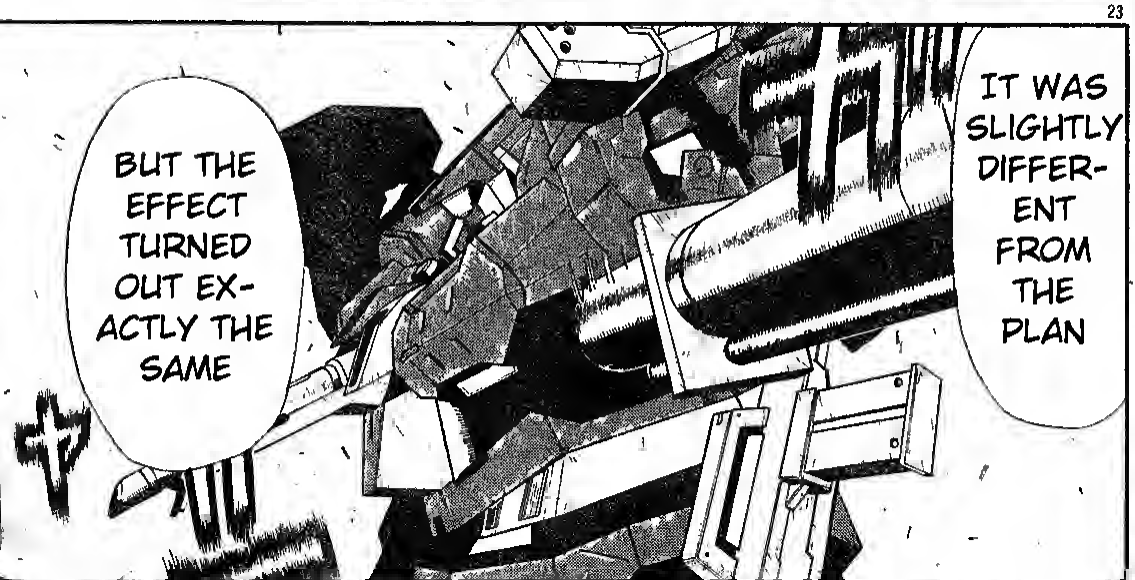

EVEN IF YOU CAN STOP ENERGY AND PROJECTILE WEAPONS, A BLADE'S POWER AND HEAT SHOULD BE ABLE TO...
BREAK THROUGH!

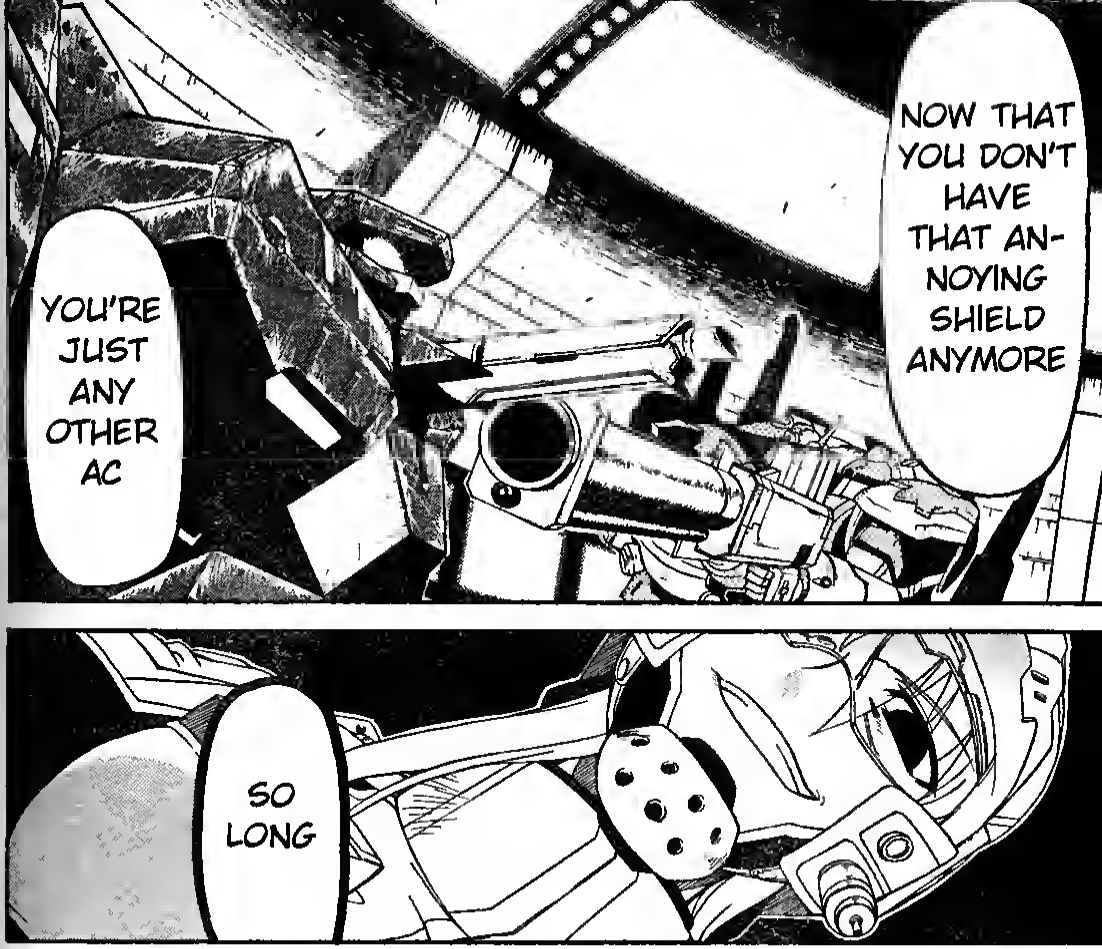

WH...
WHAT!?
NOT EVEN BLADES WORK?

22

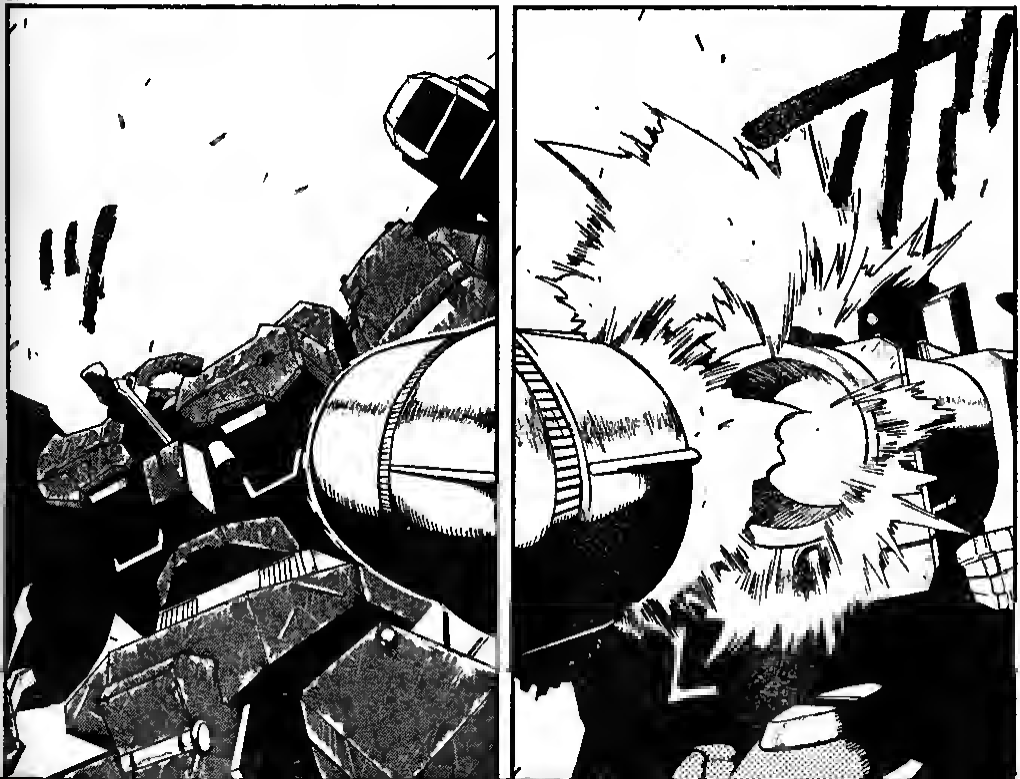
AHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHHHHHH-
HHHHHH-
H-
HHHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHHHHH
HH!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!

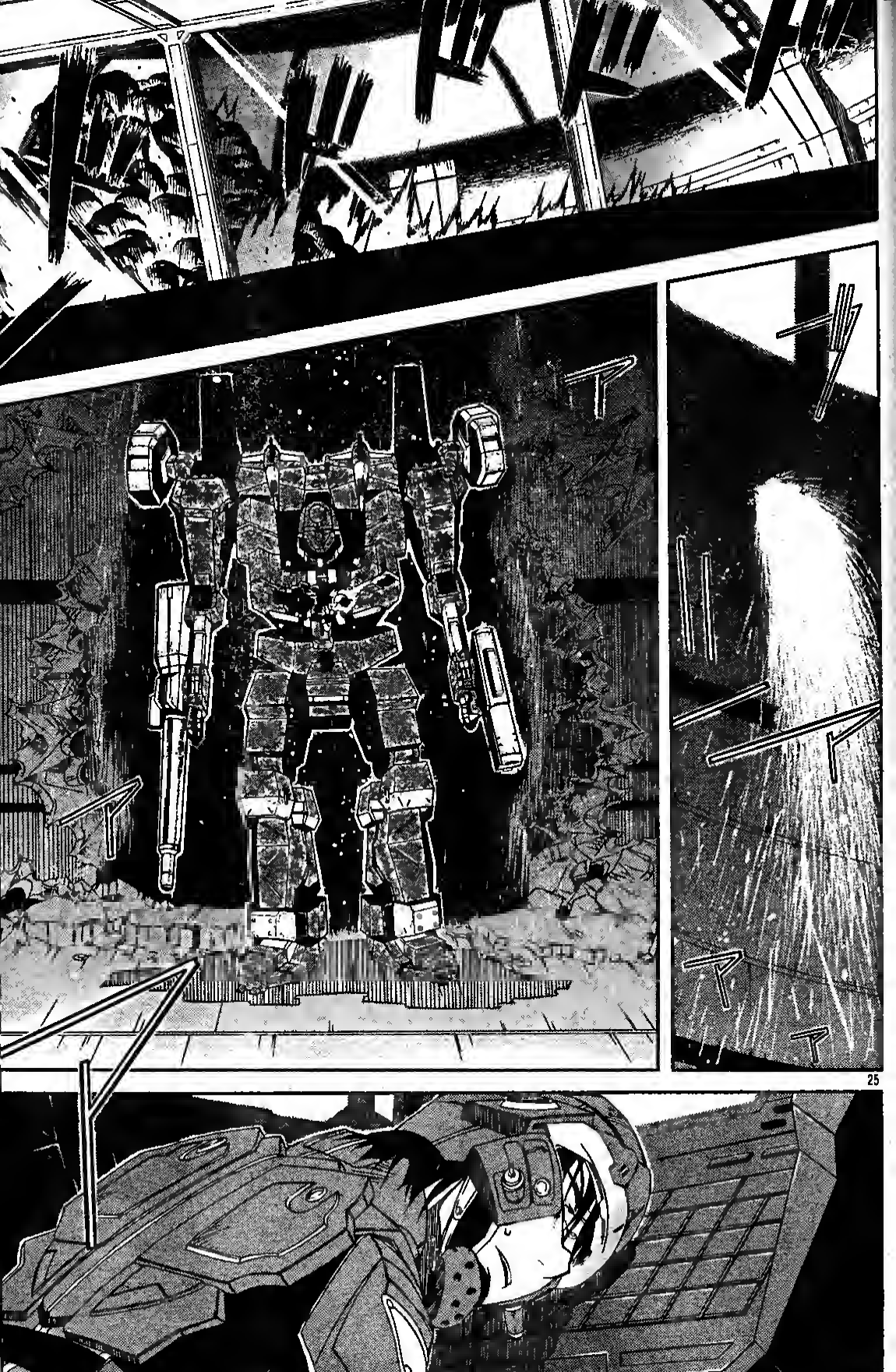
HUH...
THE KAIROS FIELD IS DISAP-PEAR-ING...!?
IT'S FUTILE
EVEN BLADES ARE AT THE MERCY OF THIS SYSTEM...
I KNEW IT
IS TIME AL-READY UP...!?

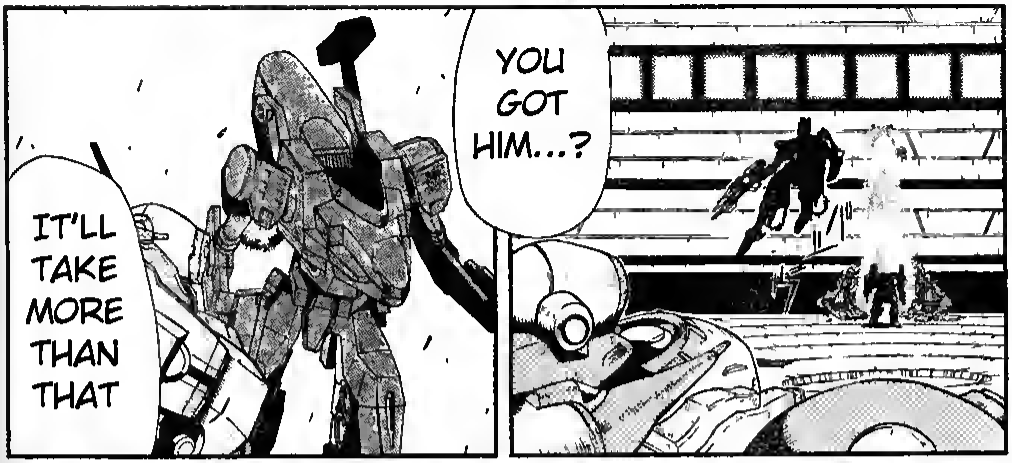

IT WAS SLIGHTLY DIFFER-ENT FROM THE PLAN
BUT THE EFFECT TURNED OUT EX-ACTLY THE SAME

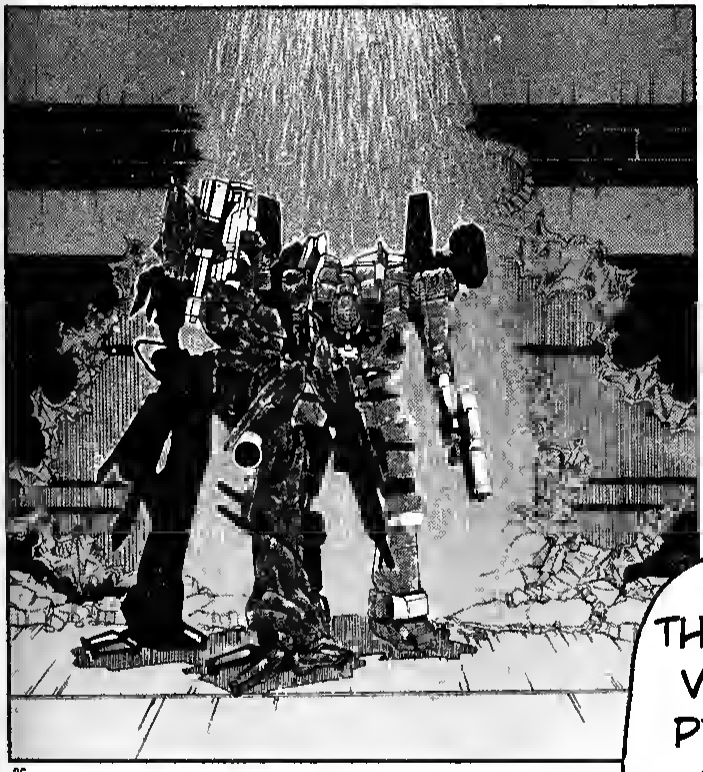

NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THAT ANNOYING SHIELD ANYMORE
YOU'RE JUST ANY OTHER AC

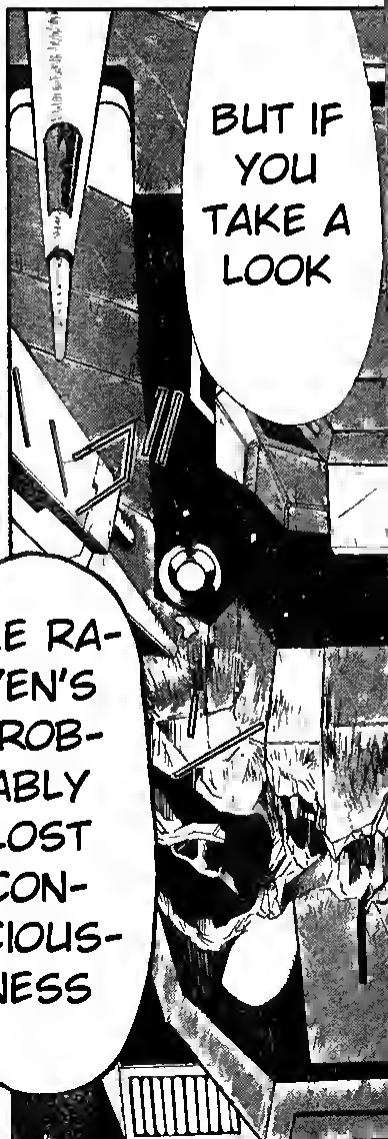
SO LONG

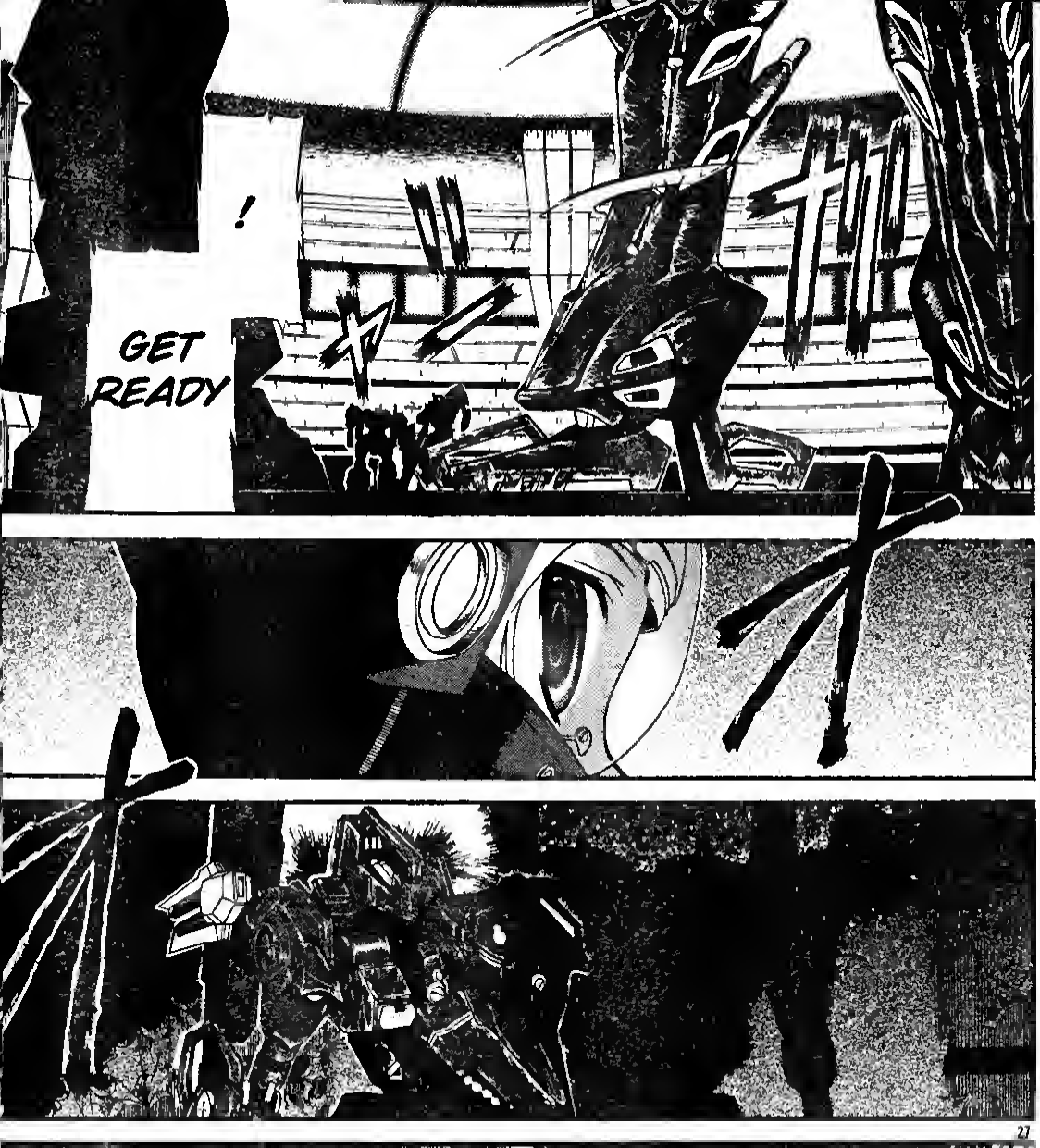





IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT
YOU GOT HIM...?

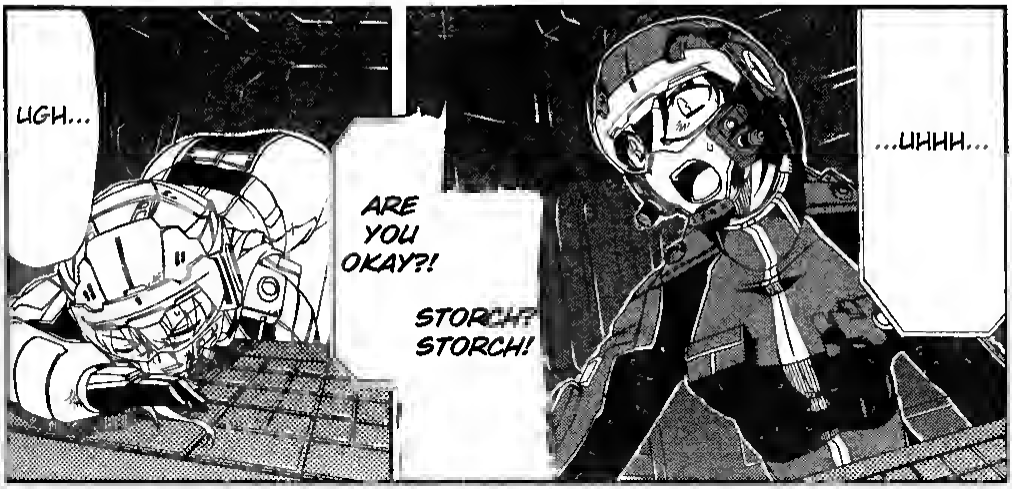


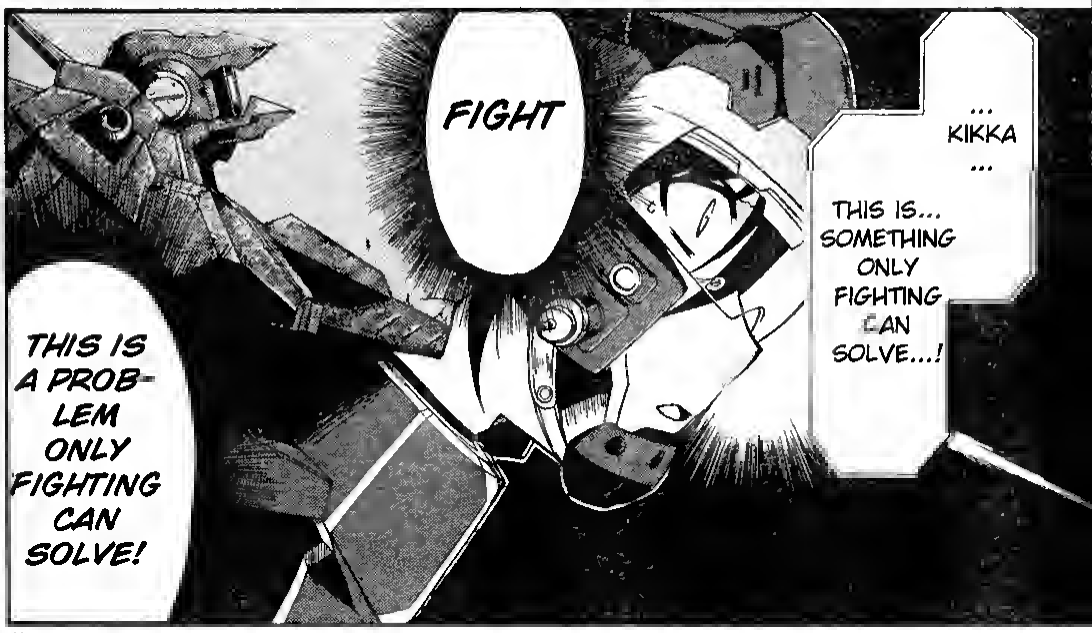

BUT IF YOU TAKE A LOOK
THE RAVEN'S PROBABLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS


!
GET READY

STAY-
……え
SHE'S SO FAST……!

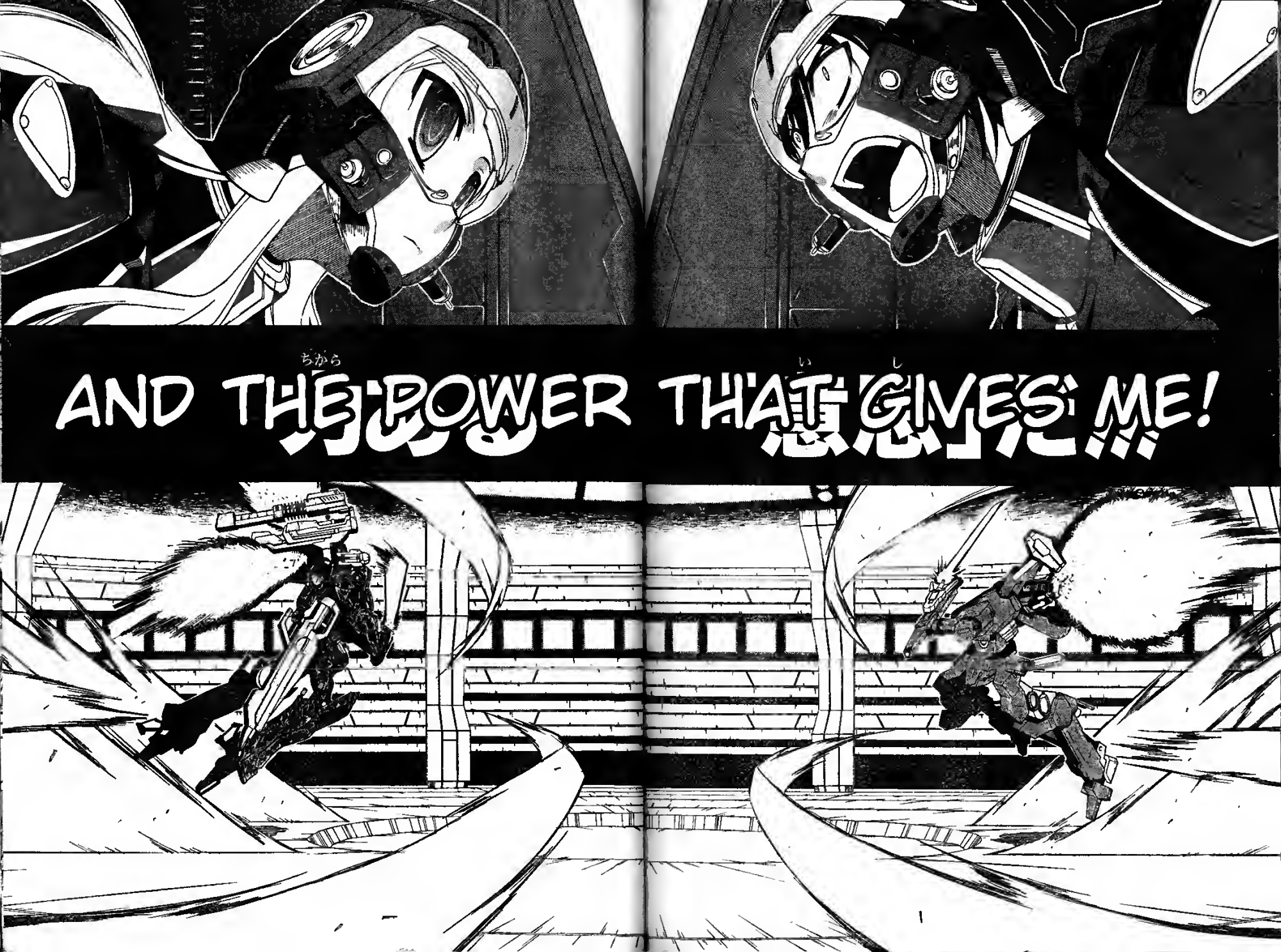
STORCH!
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HER!
...UGH...


UGH...
ARE YOU OKAY?!
STORCH! STORCH!
...UHHH...


FIGHT
... KIKKA ...
THIS IS... SOMETHING ONLY FIGHTING CAN SOLVE...!
THIS IS A PROB-LEM ONLY FIGHTING CAN SOLVE!

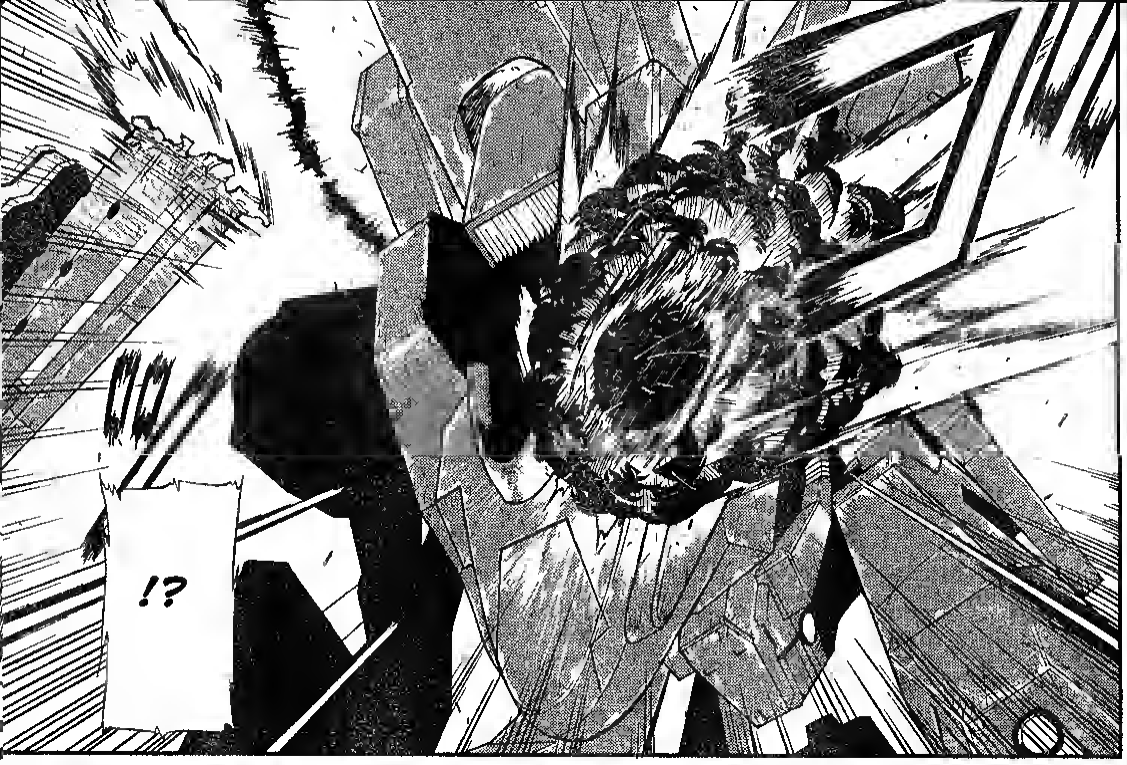
BEING A MEMBER OF THE FLIGHT NEST MEANS MORE THAN THAT!
THAT'S SOMETHING ANY RAVEN HAS
STRENGTH AND POWER...
...NO!

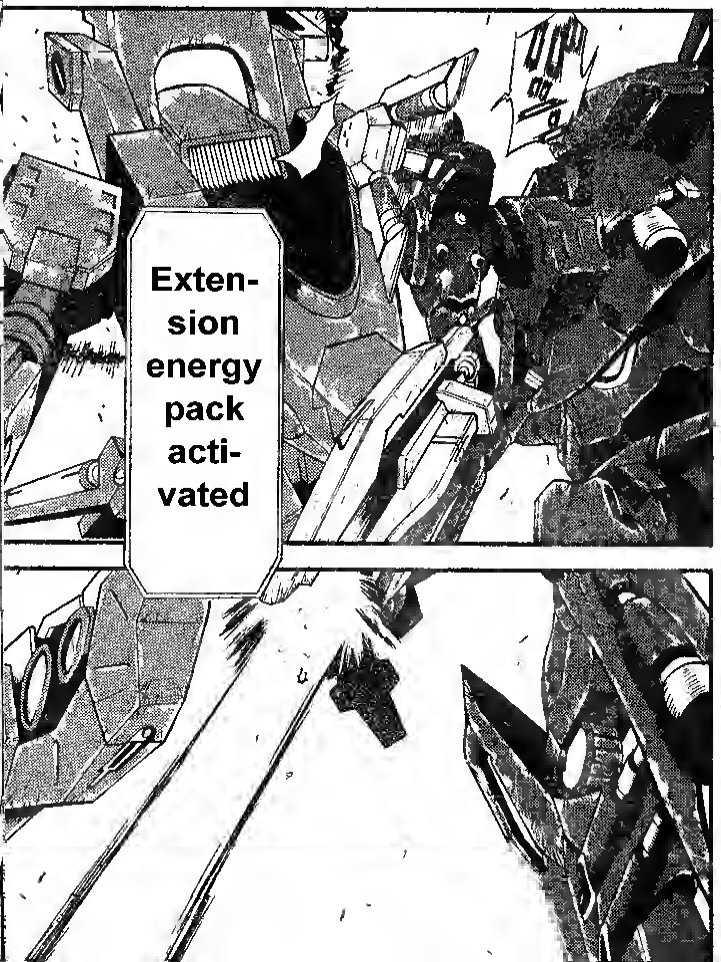
I WANT TO BE LIKE A RAVEN LIKE MY DAD...
...NO.
A RAVEN WHO'S EVEN GREATER THAN THAT.
SOMEONE WHO FIGHTS NOT ONLY WITH STRENGTH
—BUT A WILL—

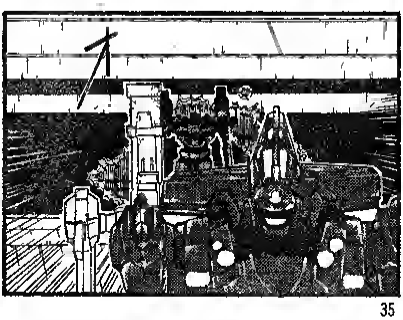

AND THE POWER THAT GIVES ME!

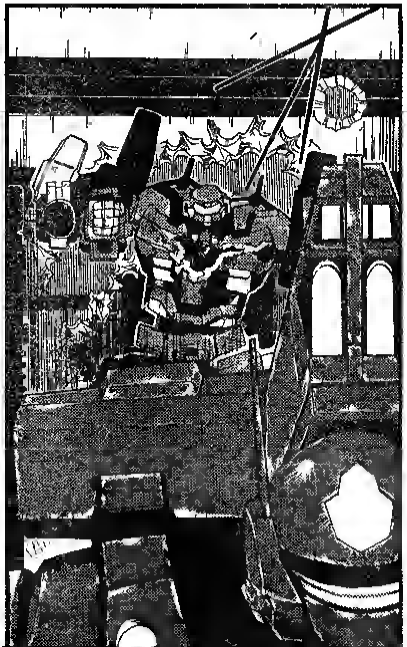
THE GENERATOR'S OUTPUT WILL BE REDUCED TO COMPENSATE
THE RADIATOR IS UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE HEAT BEING GENERATED BY THE SUPER PROCESSOR

YOU'RE MINE!
IT STOPPED!


!?


Exten-
sion
energy
pack
acti-
vated





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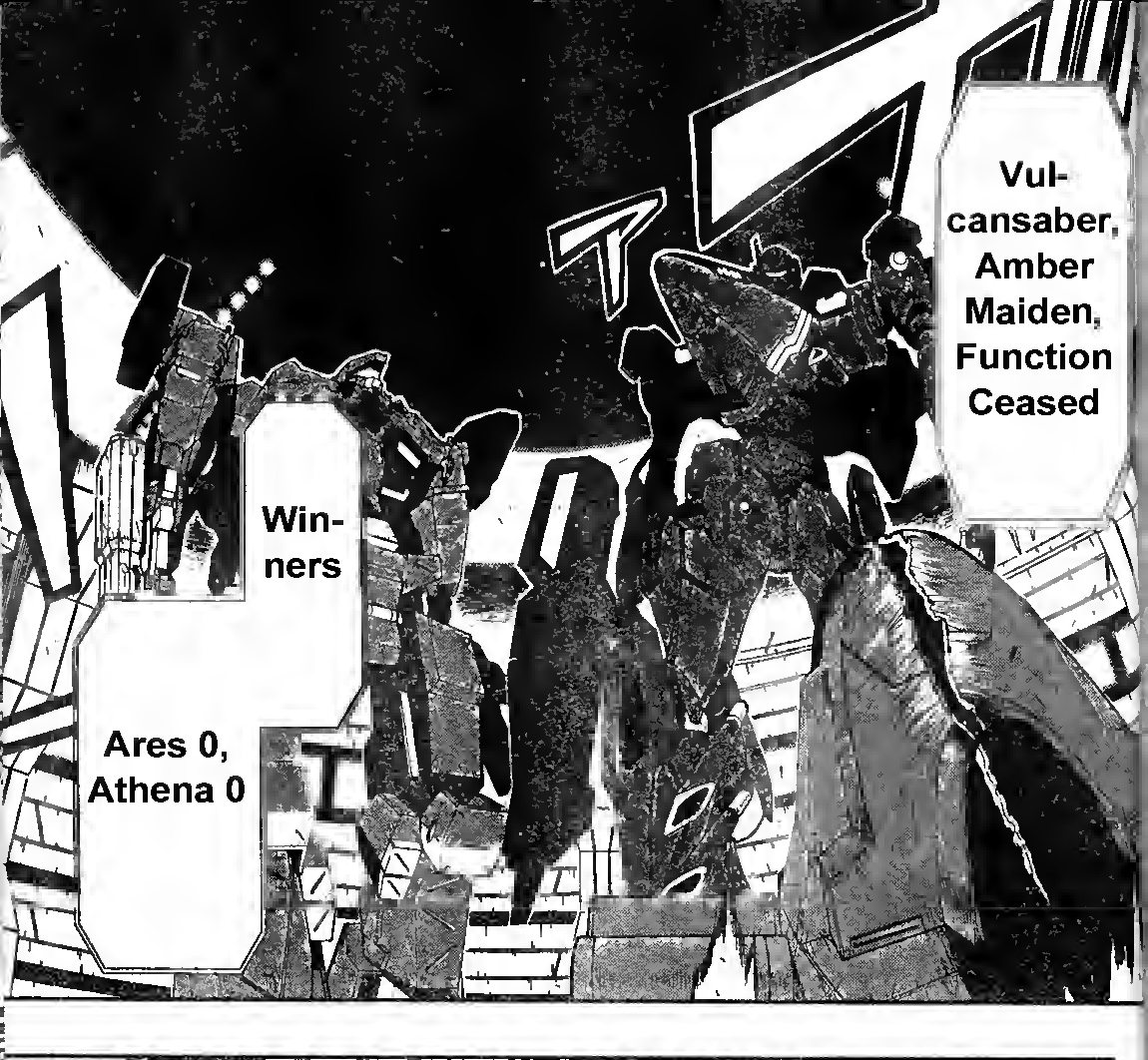
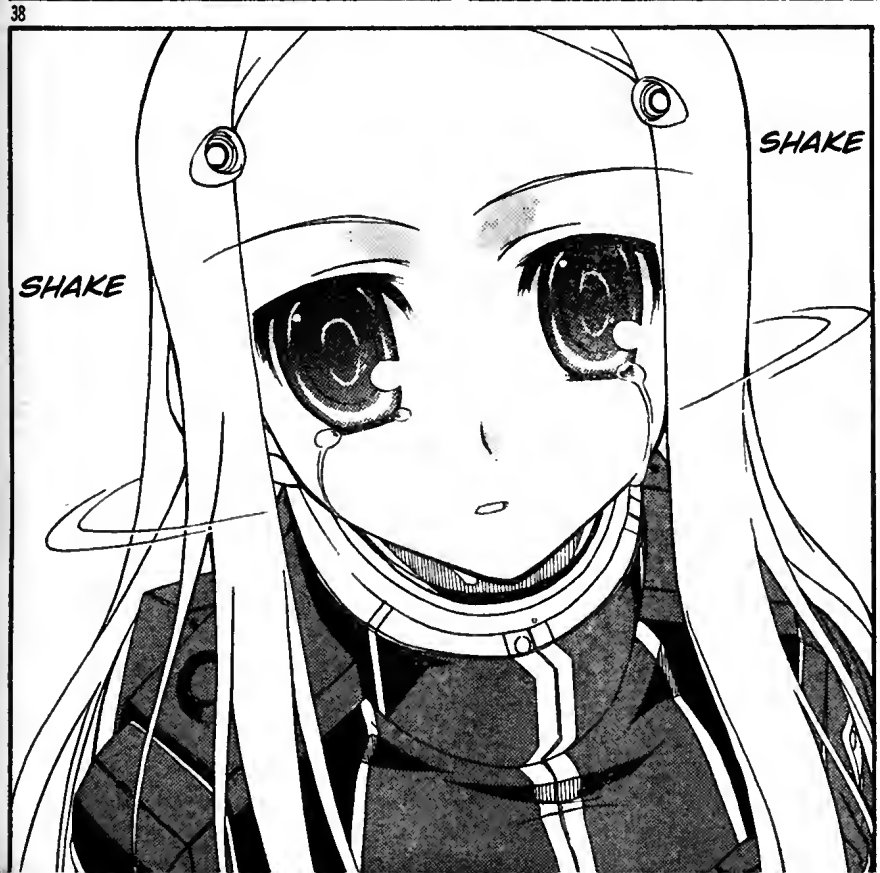
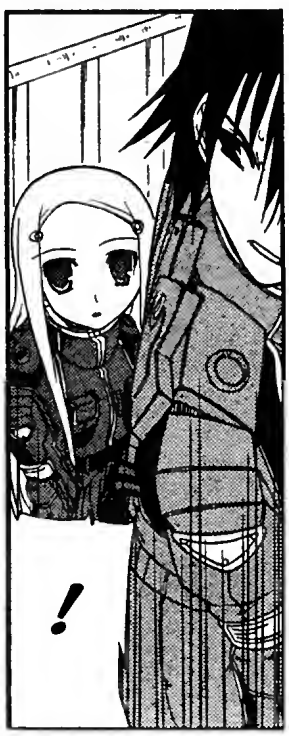

Vul-
cansaber,
Amber
Maiden,
Function
Ceased
Win-
ners
Ares 0,
Athena 0

...
YEAH,
I'M
STILL
ALIVE
...
STORCH,
ARE
YOU
OKAY!?
WHY!?

THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU PROMISED!
WHY AREN'T YOU PAYING WHAT WAS OUTLINED IN THE CONTRACT!?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU
WHAT CONTRACT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I THOUGHT SIDE CONTRACTS NOT THROUGH THE ARK WERE FORBIDDEN?
AND ANYWAYS
YOU FUCKER!

38


SHAKE
SHAKE


!

I'M SUCH A USELESS PERSON
I'VE MADE YOU SAD AGAIN...

CATA-RINA...

... SORRY

RAVENS DON'T LAST VERY LONG IN THIS COUN-TRY
GO HOME

WE'RE FINISHED HERE
CATA-RINA... LANCER...

I'LL NEVER KILL THOSE TWO!
I REFUSE!
IT'S A LITTLE SUDDEN BUT I'VE NEED FOR YOUR SERVICES ...
BY THE WAY, FLIGHT NEST

I EXPECT YOU'LL DO IT?
TEKISTAN'S COUNTING ON YOU
...!
IT'S ROC'S DECISION TO ACCEPT
YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THIS

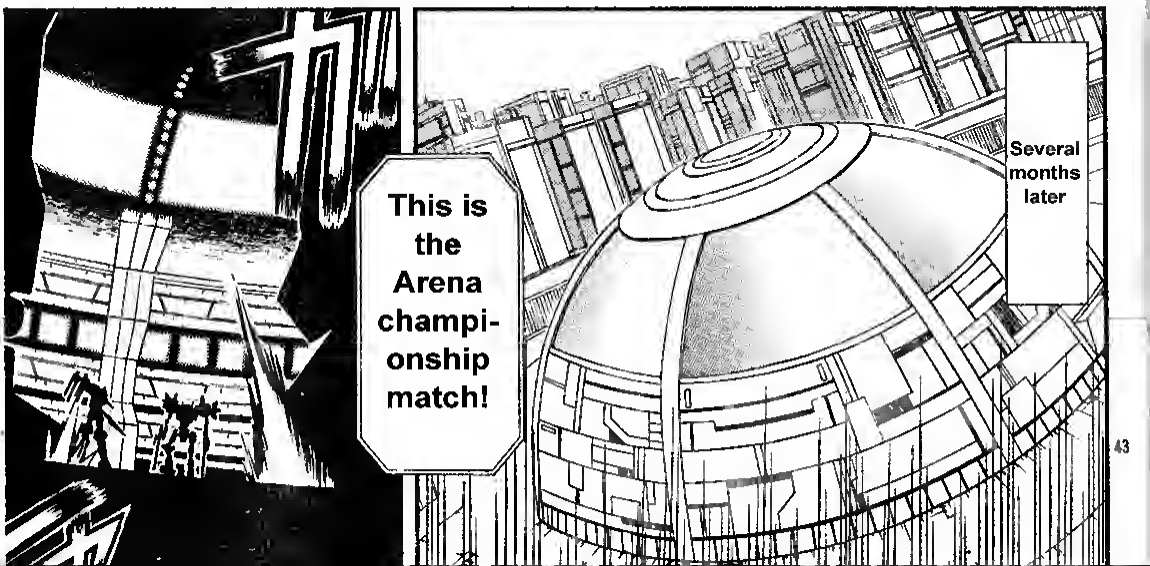
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
NOW IF YOU'LL PARDON ME

.....
NOPE

...WHAT DO YOU WANT
AND CATARINA, RIGHT
... LANCER
LEAVE THE ARK AND COME WITH US
IF YOU DO, EVERYTHING YOU NEED...
WE'LL PROVIDE
YOU PIECE OF SHIT! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
WE'RE IN NEED OF RAVENS
INDEED I AM
AND ONLY GOOD THINGS CAN COME FROM THEM BEING UNDER MY SUPERVISION, YES?

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
IT'S NOT A BAD OFFER AT ALL
...I'LL LISTEN
TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY, AND DECIDE FROM THERE
...YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF BE-TRAYING US ARE YOU
ALL THE THINGS WE'VE DONE...!
...I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG

I HAVE NO REC-OLLECTION OF EVER BECOMING YOUR ALLIES
AND IT'LL STAY THAT WAY, FOR ALL THE RAVENS OF THE FLIGHT NEST
AS LONG AS WE'RE STILL AROUND


Several months later
This is the Arena champi-onship match!

A tag battle
Ready? Go!
THE YOUNG "RAVENS" BEGIN A NEW BATTLE... LOOK FORWARD TO 主のTHY-SSEI!
NEXT WORK!
おわり DRAGON AGE

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY, GIVING ORDERS LIKE THIS?
WHAT,
ARE YOU DENSE? ARE YOU RETARDED OR SOMETHING? WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM?
I'M THE GODDAMN BATMAN.

YOU EX-
PECTED
SOME
CUTE
GIRL?
TOO
BAD!
IT'S
ME,
RANCE
!
GAHA-
HAHA-
HAHA-
HA

Terminology used and notes:

AP stands for Armor Points, meaning effective health

OB stands for Overed Boost, a stronger version of the regular thruster boost at the expense of large amounts of energy

A "Plus" refers to the terms "Human Plus" or "Optional Part - Intensify" in the series. They are as described in the comic; people who have undergone procedures to have beyond human capabilities, the most prominent being the ability to fire back-equipped cannons in mid-air (the game restricts the player from doing so normaly)

The Raven's Ark is an organisation which manages all Ravens in terms of getting them contracts and keeping track of their whereabouts

Finally, for those curious, Tekistan and Feltorica are made up factions unique to this story and the Armored Core: Fort Tower Song light novel. They have not appeared in any other Armored Core works. - SMG